

Man accused of molesting neighborhood children

By JUDITH BERNIE

The arrest of a local man on charges of committing sexual crimes against neighborhood youths has shocked residents of Pleasant Lake Highland subdivision.

Ralph W. Bryie of West Bloomfield, 35, grew up and lives in the Pleasant Lake Highland subdivision. He has been arraigned on charges of committing

sexual crimes against three neighborhood youths over a five-year period.

Charged with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, Bryie stood mute at his Tuesday arraignment in 48th District Court. He was released on personal recognizance and a \$10,000 bond was posted on each count.

A 9 a.m. examination is set for next Jan. 24 before 48th District Court Judge David Breck.

Although Bryie was charged with a five-year involvement with neighborhood youths who are now 15, 16 and 17 years old, Oakland County Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen said, "It appears there may be others."

RESIDENTS OF the Pleasant Lake Highland subdivisions — one of the township's older subdivisions, in the southwest corner of the township — ex-

pressed shock and dismay at his arrest. Bryie had lived in the area since he was a small boy, they said.

"I know everybody who lives here. I'm acquainted with the man. I know his mother. This really bothers me," said Donald Eby, a long-time Pleasant Lake resident.

Eby expressed surprise at allegations that the illegal sexual conduct had been going on over a five-year pe-

riod. "Why hasn't someone spoken up before?" he wondered.

"I've got a 5-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. If anyone touched them, I'd be willing to commit murder."

Some residents painted a picture of Bryie, a single man who had lived a long time with his mother, also a subdivision resident, and who now owned a somewhat isolated home only minutes away.

At one time, he served on the subdivision board.

They said neighborhood children often went to Bryie's home. Some enjoyed the use of his pool table.

it on TV. I didn't believe it. I was shocked to death. I'm sure every one of our neighbors who saw it were shocked too."

"We would like to still think that it's not true. After all, there are a lot of kids in here."

Sheriff's deputies, accompanied by a West Bloomfield police officer, arrested Bryie Friday night at his home, claiming a four-week investigation.

The deputies, using a search warrant, found correspondence and photographs in the home showing Bryie engaging in sexual acts with young boys, according to Spreen.

Bryie is a salvage inspector with General Motors Truck and Coach Division in Pontiac, Spreen said.

Libraries plan programs to chase away the blues

To chase away the winter blues, all Farmington area children are invited to attend some unique programs at the Farmington Community Library.

Two sessions of programs will be offered this winter. The Farmington branch's preschool programs requiring registration include "A rainbow of My Own," for ages 2 and 3; "Soft as a Buny," for ages 3 and 4; "Danny and the Dinosaur Special," for ages 3, 4 and 5; "Mad Hatter's Storyhour," for ages 3 and 4, or 4 and 5; "The Badgout revival," for ages 4 and 5; and "Crafty Capers," for ages 4 and 5.

"Let's Create" will be held for first and second graders; "Encyclopedia Brown Strikes Again," is for third and fourth graders; and Theatre Arts for fifth and sixth graders.

Preschool programs at the Farmington Hills branch include "Clap to the Music," for ages 2 and 3; "Danny and the Dinosaur Special," for ages 3 to 5; "Alphabet soup" for ages 4 and 5; "How Does Your Garden Grow?" for ages 4 and 5; and "Mad Hatter's Storyhour," for ages 3 and 4, or 4 and 5.

For first and second graders, "What's Cooking?" will be offered,

while "The Magnificent Monsters" is offered for third and fourth graders. "Babysitters' Bags of Tricks" will be presented for fifth and sixth graders.

Registration for the first session programs with a limited enrollment will begin on Friday, Jan. 18. From 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, registration must be made in person by a parent only.

Thereafter, telephone and in-person

registrations will be accepted. Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are given first preference.

Library cards should be shown for proper identification. Registration can be made after 11 a.m. on Jan. 18 by calling the Farmington branch at 474-7770, or the Farmington Hills branch at 553-0300.

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